

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport Strathclyde Bus Improvement Programme update and proposal for pilot and integration with East Dunbartonshire Council's Place and Growth Programme – Position agreed etc.

6 There was submitted a joint report by the Chief Executive, East Dunbartonshire Council (EDC) and the Assistant Chief Executive, Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT), providing an update on a proposal for a collaboration between SPT, EDC and Glasgow City Council (GCC) to refocus the City Deal Strathclyde Bus Improvement Programme (SBIP) towards a SBIP pilot project focussed within EDC and GCC, and to use the SBIP to support the complementary EDC Place and Growth Programme, including leveraging an additional funding contribution from EDC into the overall City Deal Programme, advising

- (1) that from the initial list of projects which had been assembled during the Programme Assembly exercise in 2013/14, the SBIP, with SPT as project sponsor, remained the only project from that list not to have a Strategic Business Case (SBC) approved, although SPT had previously submitted 2 draft SBCs, and had undertaken a further review in 2019, as detailed in the report;
- (2) that, following a discussion between the Director of Regional Economic Growth and SPT to determine the progress on the development of the SBIP, it had been suggested that, contingent upon a significant additional investment, the most effective use of the SBIP project budget would be to utilise it to deliver a focused set of interventions to support bus infrastructure and increase passenger usage within a specific area, with this serving as a pilot study for a more ambitious future programme of investment of the scale previously envisaged in 2013/14;
- (3) that, following consideration by Cabinet in April 2019 of a draft SBC by EDC for its Place and Growth Programme project, discussions between EDC and SPT had identified a number of shared priorities and benefits that could be delivered by aligning the proposed Place and Growth Programme and the SBIP, as well as strengthening links to the ongoing City Deal supported development in the north of Glasgow around the Sighthill area, most evident through the proposed investment in the infrastructure of the A803 route corridor to Junction 15 on the M8, and the Bishopbriggs Relief Road and its links to the A80, as detailed in the report;
- (4) that further discussions between EDC, SPT and GCC had identified an opportunity to deliver a step-change in access by bus on these radical corridors, bringing wider societal benefits, including inclusive growth, access to employment and reduced emissions;
- (5) of a proposal that, owing to the additional investment being made by EDC to the Place and Growth elements of the integrated project, EDC should lead on the development of the project's SBC;

- (6) that this proposed project was additional to SPTs capital investment programme and would not impact on its ability to invest to improve transport across the region;
- (7) that a joint officer working group, involving representatives from each organisation had already been established, with the Terms of Reference being detailed in Appendix 1 of the report; and
- (8) of a proposal to progress with further planning of the integrated project, with the future SBC being submitted to Cabinet in December 2019, which would provide full details of the planned pilot project.

After consideration and having heard Kevin Rush, Director of Regional Economic Growth, and Bruce Kiloh, SPT, the Cabinet

- (a) noted
 - (i) the report and the work which had already been undertaken to develop collaborative partnership working between EDC, SPT and GCC;
 - (ii) the opportunity to leverage an additional funding contribution from EDC into the overall City Deal Programme; and
 - (iii) EDC's intention to submit the SBC to Cabinet in December 2019 for approval; and
- (b) approved
 - (i) the proposal to refocus the SBIP towards a SBIP pilot integrated with EDC's Place and Growth Programme, with this integrated project retaining the status afforded by the Assurance Framework 2019 to projects on the initial project list, as detailed in the report, while noting that, provided successful delivery of the SBIP pilot, SPT and local authorities would incorporate further corridor improvements into future capital investment programmes, including City Deal projects;
 - (ii) EDC as the project's lead sponsor; and
 - (iii) that EDC progress with the development of the integrated SBIP pilot/Place and Growth Programme SBC.